

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with the Revised Rules under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please amend the claims as shown below and indicated as "currently amended." Also shown below are claims that may be indicated as original, previously amended, cancelled, withdrawn, previously added, new, reinstated, previously reinstated, re-presented, or allowed. In accordance with the Rules, the text of cancelled or withdrawn claims need not be presented.

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1. (previously amended and now allowed) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration.

2. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, the locking barb being configured to lock against the attachment surface once the locking barb is inserted through an aperture of the attachment surface.

3. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, the locking barb being configured to lock against the supporting structure once the locking barb is inserted through an aperture of the supporting structure.

4. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, the locking barb being configured to lock against the mounting section once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

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5. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the mounting opening is defined by a wall having a lip extending around the entire mounting opening.

6. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the mounting opening is defined by a wall having a lip, the locking barb including a notch that is configured to lock against the lip once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

7. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 6, wherein the locking barb includes two notches that are configured to lock against the lip once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

8. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the mounting opening is square.

9. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the mounting opening is circular.

10. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, further comprising a compliant area, the compliant area being disposed between the retention section and the mounting section and configured to allow the first and second legs to be compressed toward each other and to expand away from each other by spring force.

11. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 10, wherein expansion of the first and second legs away from each other brings the first and second legs into contact with a wall that defines an aperture of the attachment surface once the locking barb is inserted through the aperture.

12. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the first and second legs include respective first and second spring fingers flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs, the first and second spring fingers being configured to retain the line.

13. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 12, wherein each spring finger penetrates into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger.

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14. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 12, wherein the first and second legs include a first and second curved member, respectively.

15. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 14, wherein the first and second spring fingers are located on the first and second curved members respectively.

16. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the retention section includes opposing first and second areas of resistance.

17. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the line hanger is a unitary structure.

18. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the line hanger is comprised of metal.

19. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the retention section includes a pair of opposing line stops connected thereto and projecting inwardly therefrom for inhibiting the line from moving into the mounting section.

20. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 19, wherein the opposing stops extend inwardly in a generally straight line from the first and second legs.

21. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 19, wherein the opposing stops are generally concave to match a curvature of the line.

22. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the first and second arms each include a pair of stop arms extending downwardly at an angle to engage a top of the attachment surface.

23. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 22, wherein the stop arms further include a side wall that extends generally orthogonal to the first and second legs.

24. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the line retention section is adapted to pivot relative to the mounting section, such that the line hanger can dampen line vibration.

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25. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 24, wherein the line retention section is constructed of a flexible material, enabling the line retention section to pivot relative to the mounting section.

26. (previously amended and now allowed) A method for securing one or more lines to a supporting structure comprising:

providing one or more stackable line hangers each including a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface having an aperture disposed therein, and a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein, wherein the retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen vibration of the line;

placing the retention section around the line;

inserting the locking barb through the aperture; and

locking the locking barb against the attachment surface.

27. (original and now allowed) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of locking the locking barb includes locking the locking barb against the supporting surface.

28. (previously amended and now allowed) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of inserting the locking barb comprises inserting the locking barb through the mounting opening of another of the stackable line hangers and the step of locking the locking barb includes locking the locking barb against the mounting surface of another stackable line hanger.

29. (previously amended and now allowed) The method of claim 26, wherein the locking barb of another stackable line hanger including a notch, and wherein the method includes locking a notch of the locking barb of another stackable line hanger against a lip of a wall defining the mounting opening once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

30. (original and now allowed) The method of claim 26, further including pressing the first and second legs toward each other to enable the locking barb to fit through the aperture.

31. (original and now allowed) The method of claim 30, further including releasing the first and second legs such that they expand away from each other and bring the first and

second legs into contact with a wall defining the aperture once the locking barb is inserted through the aperture.

32. (previously amended and now allowed) The method of claim 26, further including penetrating spring fingers of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger.

33. (previously amended and now allowed) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the locking barb includes a folded over rib and is configured to lock against the mounting section of the first hanger once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening of the mounting section of the first hanger.

34. (previously amended and now allowed) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein, wherein the mounting opening is defined by a wall having a lip, the locking barb including at least two notches that are configured to lock against the lip once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

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35. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 34, wherein the mounting opening is circular.

36. (previously amended and now allowed) The line hanger of claim 34, wherein the lip of the mounting opening extends around the entire mounting opening.

37. (previously amended and now allowed) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface, wherein the retention section further includes respective first and second curved portions, the first and second curved portions including respective first and second spring fingers flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs, the first and second spring fingers being configured to retain the line; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein.

38. (previously amended and now allowed) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface, wherein the retention section includes a pair of opposing line stops connected thereto and projecting inwardly and in a generally straight line therefrom; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein,

wherein the opposing line stops are configured to inhibit line movement into the mounting section.

39. (previously amended and now allowed) A method for securing one or more lines to a supporting structure comprising:

providing one or more stackable line hangers each including a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface having an aperture disposed therein, and a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

placing the retention section around the line;

penetrating first and second spring fingers of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger, wherein the first and second spring fingers are flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs;

penetrating first and second opposing line stops of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger, wherein the first and second opposing line stops are flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs;

inserting the locking barb through the aperture; and

locking the locking barb against the attachment surface.

40. (previously amended and now allowed) A stackable line hanger being composed of a resilient material and having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of the arms being structured to be urged toward each other and to lock into a common opening in a line support or another line hanger, the hanger having a stacking provision located in a region where said arms are joined and configured to retentively engage a second hanger supporting a second line.

41. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 40, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs which are adapted to snap lock into different

peripheral areas of said common opening, and wherein the stacking provision comprises an opening.

42. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 41, wherein the opening in said hanger is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary formed in said U-shaped body.

43. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 42, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

44. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 42, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs with a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

45. (previously amended and now allowed) A stack of line hangers comprising:
a first stackable line hanger being composed of a resilient material and having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms being structured to be urged toward each other and to lock into a common opening in a line support or another line hanger, the hanger having a stacking provision; and

a second stackable line hanger configured to lock onto the stacking provision so as to support a second line.

46. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 45, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs which are adapted to snap lock into different peripheral areas of said common opening and wherein the stacking provision comprises an opening.

47. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 45, wherein the distal ends of the arms and the stacking provisions are structured such that wind-induced vibrations of the held lines is damped.

48. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 47, wherein the opening in said first hanger is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary.

49. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 48, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

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50. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 48, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs with a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

51. (currently amended) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to ~~snap-lock onto an edge of~~ lock into a common an opening in a line support, each barb having a an edge-engaging surface which is serrated or notched to engage a lip or flange adjacent said opening.

52. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 50, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.

53. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 52, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

54. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 53, wherein the opening is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary.

55. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 54, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

56. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 54, wherein the barbs have a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

57. (previously amended and now allowed) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to snap-lock onto an edge of an opening in a line support, the hanger arms each having an outwardly extending brace which abuts an opposite surface of the edge from that engaged by a barb, the brace being rigid and structured to dig into, rather than slide along, the opposite surface when the hanger is side loaded.

58. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 57, wherein the brace has an out-turned side with a distal edge which makes point contact with the opposite surface when the hanger is side loaded.

59. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 58, wherein the brace has an in-turned side with a distal edge which engages the opposite surface, the out-turned and in-turned sides of the brace stiffening the brace and widening its footprint on the opposite surface.

60. (original and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 57, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.

61. (previously amended and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 60, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

62. (previously amended) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to snap-lock onto an edge of an opening in a line support, the hanger arms each having rigid means structured to abut an opposite surface of the edge from that engaged by a barb and create a fixed pivot point or line for the hanger when side loaded.

63. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 62, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.

64. (previously amended) The apparatus defined by claim 63, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

65. (previously added and now allowed) The apparatus defined by claim 57 wherein said barb has an integral strengthening rib.

66. (currently amended) A hanger for a transmission line or other elongated article, comprising a generally U-shaped body with arms ~~side members~~ which grip the elongated article, the distal ends of which members being structured to lock into an opening in a support structure, said distal ends each being structured to engage a back peripheral surface around the opening and each having at least one substantially straight, outwardly angled stiff stand-off tab or brace which engages a front peripheral surface of the support structure at a distance from the opening acting like outriggers to create a pivot point or line for the hanger when side loaded.

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67. (previously added) The hanger defined by claim 66 wherein each of said members has two such tabs.

68. (currently amended) The hanger defined by claim 66 wherein said tab or brace has a stiffening provision.

69. (currently amended) The hanger defined by claim 66 wherein said tab or brace makes line engagement with said surface.

70. (currently amended) A hanger for a transmission line or other elongated article, comprising a generally U-shaped body having a retention section adapted to engage the article, from which section extends a pair of legs, distal ends of which legs being structured to lock into an opening in a support structure, said legs each having between said retention section and said distal end an extension section which substantially increases a length of the leg and flexes during insertion to decrease an insertion force required to insert the hanger into said opening, said U-shaped body having a stacking provision in the closed end of the body.

71. (previously cancelled) ~~A hanger for a transmission line or other elongated article, comprising a generally U-shaped body having a retention section adapted to engage the article, from which section extends a pair of legs, distal ends of which legs being structured to lock into an opening in a support structure, said legs each having between said retention section and said distal end an intermediate section from which is formed, in a direction from the distal end toward the retention section an integral spring finger, the spring finger being deflected inwardly from the intermediate section so as to engage and support an article residing in the retention section, a resiliency in the spring finger being adapted to accommodate articles of different diameters.~~

72. (previously cancelled) ~~The hanger defined by claim 70 wherein each of said spring fingers is substantially S-shaped.~~